

Message Text

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EXDIS

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TAGS:PFOR, EGEN, EC, US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH EC DELEGATION HEAD
FERNAND SPAAK

SUMMARY. FERNAND SPAAK, HEAD OF THE EC DELEGATION IN
WASHINGTON, PAID AN INTRODUCTORY CALL ON THE SECRETARY
MARCH 13. DISCUSSION TOUCHED ON STATE OF US/EC RELA-
TIONS, MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTIONIST PRESSURES, AND EC
INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. SPAAK TOLD THE SECRETARY THAT BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER
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TINDEMANS HAD INDICATED HE BELIEVES SECRETARY MAY HAVE

PROBLEMS WITH THE TINDEMANS REPORT ON EUROPEAN UNION. THE SECRETARY DENIED THIS CATEGORICALLY. SECRETARY SAID THAT FROM WHAT HE KNOWS OF REPORT HE REGARDS IT AS A CONSTRUCTIVE DOCUMENT. USG WANTS TO AVOID MAKING ANY FORMAL COMMENT ON THE REPORT BECAUSE WE REGARD IT AS A MATTER DESIGNED FOR DISCUSSION BY THE EUROPEANS THEMSELVES. BUT SECRETARY EMPHASIZED THAT WE STRONGLY

SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY, EUROPEAN UNITY, AND CLOSER US/EC RELATIONS. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT TINDEMANS WILL HAVE NO MISAPPREHENSIONS CONCERNING OUR POSITIVE ATTITUDE.

2. IN BRIEF DISCUSSION OF CURRENT ISSUES INVOLVED IN US/EC RELATIONS, SECRETARY EMPHASIZED THAT WE OPPOSE PROTECTIONIST PRESSURES WHEREVER THEY ARISE. HE AND SPAAK AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE IF PROTECTIONIST ACTIONS ARE TAKEN ON EITHER SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC, PARTICULARLY NOW THAT THE EFFECTS OF RECESSION ARE LESSENING.

3. THE SECRETARY ASKED SPAAK WHEN COMMISSION VP SOAMES MIGHT NEXT VISIT THE US. SPAAK SAID THAT SOAMES IS THINKING OF A WASHINGTON VISIT THIS SPRING. THE SECRETARY RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING WITH HIM.

4. THE SECRETARY AND SPAAK DISCUSSED THE HISTORY OF EUROPEAN UNIFICATION EFFORTS. THE SECRETARY EXPRESSED HIS GREAT PERSONAL ADMIRATION FOR JEAN MONNET AND HIS VISION THAT THERE ARE PROBLEMS WHICH CAN NO LONGER BE SOLVED IN THE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK. HE ASKED FOR SPAAK'S ESTIMATE OF THE TIME FRAME FOR FURTHER STEPS TOWARD UNIFICATION, AND SPAAK RESPONDED THAT 1978 TARGET DATE FOR DIRECT ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WAS OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE. IN RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY'S QUESTION, SPAAK SAID THAT FOR THE TIME BEING THE PARLIAMENT'S POWERS WILL REMAIN AS STATED IN THE TREATIES ESTABLISHING THE COMMUNITY, BUT THAT AS THE PARLIAMENT BECOMES "LEGITIMIZED" ITS
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POWERS WILL PROBABLY INCREASE.

5. THE SECRETARY INDICATED HIS PLEASURE AT ESTABLISHING FORMAL CONTACT WITH SPAAK AND CONVEYED HIS GOOD WISHES FOR SPAAK'S TENURE AS HEAD OF THE DELEGATION. KISSINGER

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